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## ECONOMIC INDICATORS, NEW SOUTH WALES FEBRUARY 1995

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### MAIN FEATURES

#### *Employment*

Seasonally adjusted, the estimated number of employed people in NSW in January 1995 was 2,725,200, an increase of 0.8% from December 1994 and an annual increase of 4.1%. Nationally, the seasonally adjusted number of employed people increased by 0.2% between December 1994 and January 1995 and by 3.6% over the twelve month period.

#### *Unemployment*

The seasonally adjusted estimate of the number of unemployed people in NSW in January 1995 was 259,500. This was slightly lower than the figure for December 1994 but 42,800 less than in January 1994. The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate in NSW for January 1995 was 8.7%. Nationally, the seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 9.0% in January 1995.

#### *Building Approvals*

The seasonally adjusted number of new dwelling units approved in NSW in December 1994 (4,724) rose by 21.7% from the previous month (3,883). This rise reverses the consecutive monthly falls from the record high level of approvals of 6,060 in August 1994.

#### *Finance*

The value of housing finance commitments for owner occupation in NSW in December 1994 fell by 13.5% over the previous month and was 15.9% lower than in December 1993.

The value of personal and commercial finance commitments made in NSW in December 1994 increased by 17.6% and 13.0% respectively over November 1994.

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### NOTES

This publication provides information on a wide range of economic indicators which are the latest available at the time of publication. In a number of cases, figures appearing in this summary are preliminary and are subject to revision in subsequent issues.

For detailed explanatory notes and definitions for the items shown in this publication, readers are referred to the specific ABS publications.

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GREG BRAY  
Deputy Commonwealth Statistician

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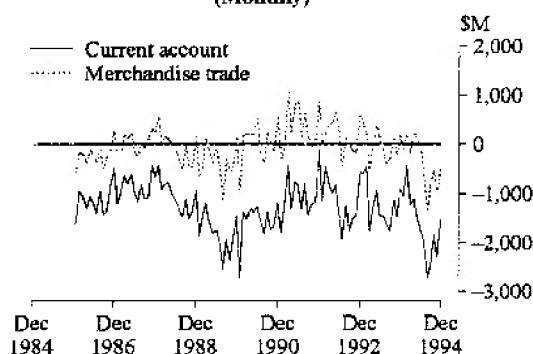
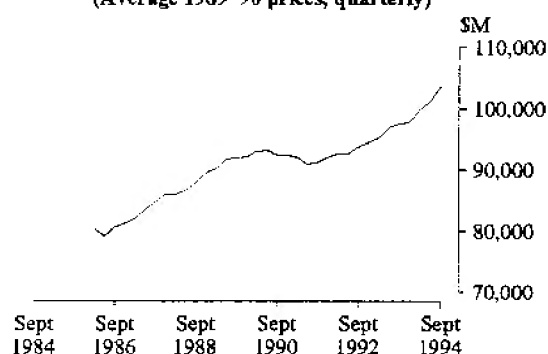
INQUIRIES:

- for further information about statistics in this publication and the availability of related unpublished statistics, contact Sue Furlong on Sydney (02) 268 4466 or any ABS office.
- for information about other ABS statistics and services please contact Information Services on Sydney (02) 268 4611 or any ABS office.

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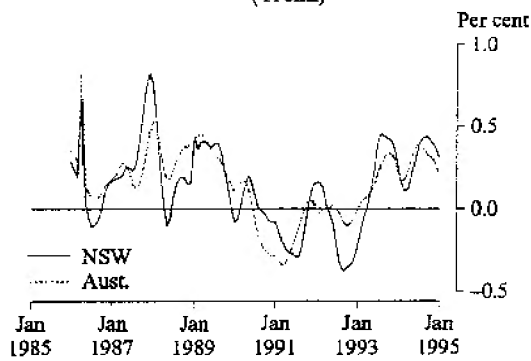
## NATIONAL ECONOMY

Indicator	Unit	Latest period	Change over prior period	Change over year			
<b>National Accounts percentage change, average 1989-90 prices, (seasonally adjusted)—</b>							
Gross non-farm product	per cent	Sept. qtr 94	3.1	7.2			
Gross domestic product	per cent	Sept. qtr 94	2.3	6.3			
<b>Figures for preceding periods</b>							
Indicator	Unit	Latest period	Latest figure	One period ago	Two periods ago	Three periods ago	Figure one year ago
<b>Balance of payments—</b>							
Merchandise exports	\$m	Dec. 94	5,460	5,720	5,744	5,283	5,474
Merchandise imports	\$m	Jan. 95	-5,788	-5,918	-6,674	-6,262	-4,791
Balance on merchandise trade	\$m	Dec. 94	-458	-954	-518	-785	187
Balance on goods and services	\$m	Dec. 94	-432	-1,027	-601	-1,214	239
Balance on current account	\$m	Dec. 94	-1,531	-2,284	-1,829	-2,484	-888
Balance on current account (seasonally adjusted)	\$m	Dec. 94	-2,386	-2,039	-1,572	-1,890	-1,644
<b>Terms of trade for goods and services—</b>							
Index (seasonally adjusted) 1989-90 = 100		Sept. qtr 94	89.4	88.1	88.5	87.9	87.7
<b>Exchange Rates at end of period—</b>							
\$US/\$A		Dec. 94	0.7768	0.7674	0.7422	0.7393	0.6771
Trade weighted index of value \$A May 1970 = 100		Dec. 94	56.2	55.5	53.1	53.4	50.8
<b>Interest Rates—</b>							
Prime rate (Source: Reserve Bank)	per cent	Jan. 95	10.65-10.75	9.75-10.75	9.65-9.80	9.00-9.75	8.95-9.00

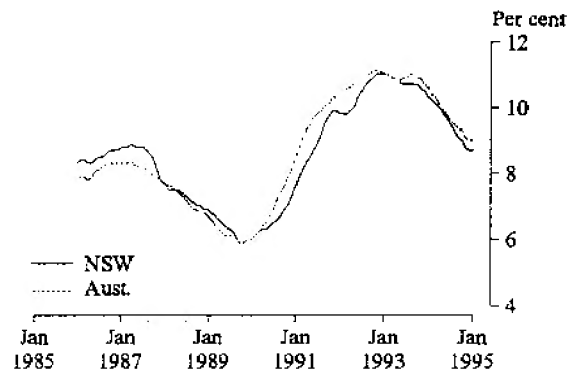
BALANCE OF PAYMENTS  
AUSTRALIA  
(Monthly)GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT, AUSTRALIA  
SEASONALLY ADJUSTED  
(Average 1989-90 prices, quarterly)NEW SOUTH WALES IN RELATION TO OTHER STATES AND AUSTRALIA  
(per cent)

Indicator	Latest period	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	Aust.
Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)	Jan. 95	8.7	10.1	8.6	9.8	7.6	11.6	9.0
<b>Percentage change from previous year—</b>								
Employed persons	Jan. 95	4.1	3.0	4.2	1.1	4.5	1.4	3.6
Consumer price index: all groups	Dec. qtr 94	2.8	2.1	3.2	2.8	2.3	2.3	2.5
Average weekly employee earnings: full-time adult ordinary time	Aug. 94	4.3	2.4	2.0	-0.1	5.3	2.5	3.0
Retail turnover (trend estimates)	Dec. 94	5.7	8.5	8.6	6.7	5.3	-0.8	6.7
New motor vehicle registrations	Dec. 94	9.3	7.9	15.9	10.0	-1.7	2.3	8.8
Dwelling units approved	Dec. 94	25.9	3.1	-21.6	-24.8	-19.6	-38.5	-6.5
Value of non-residential building approved	Dec. 94	15.8	-25.9	-63.2	32.1	-37.5	163.5	-27.0
Value of all buildings approved	Dec. 94	25.7	8.8	-38.6	-2.4	-19.4	18.7	-6.5
Value of engineering construction work done	Sept. qtr 94	10.9	9.4	6.6	-6.6	-22.5	-38.3	3.0
Room occupancy rate in licensed hotels and motels etc.	Sept. qtr 94	8.3	11.6	4.9	4.1	3.8	13.0	7.2
Actual private new capital expenditure	June qtr 94	25.3	0.3	13.0	5.5	10.3	-34.6	24.0

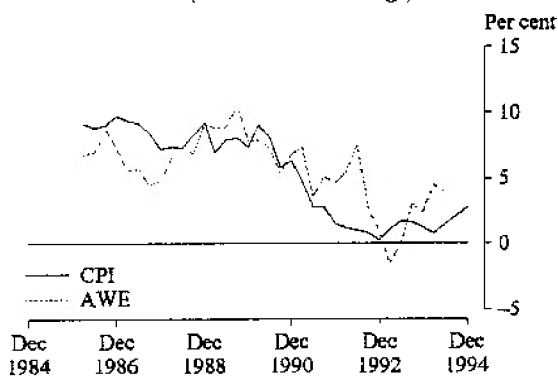
**MONTHLY CHANGE IN NUMBER OF PERSONS EMPLOYED**  
(Trend)



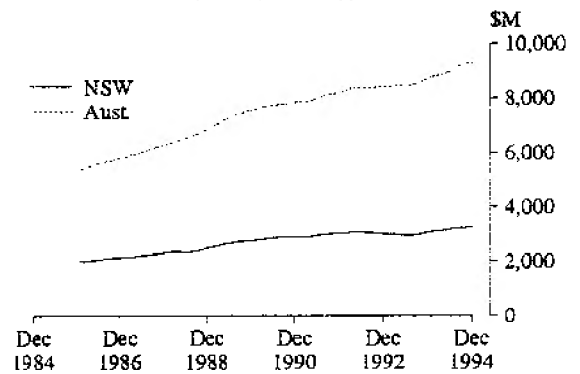
**UNEMPLOYMENT RATE**  
(Trend)



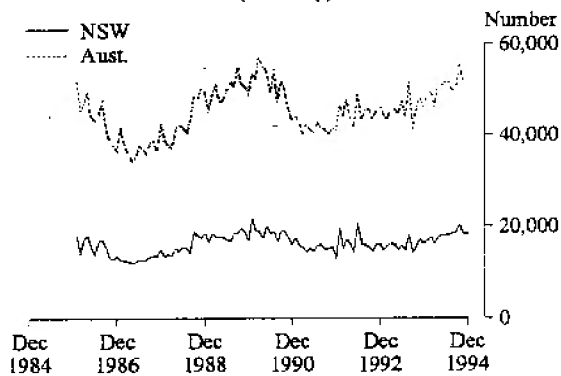
**PRICES AND EARNINGS, NSW**  
(Annual rate of change)



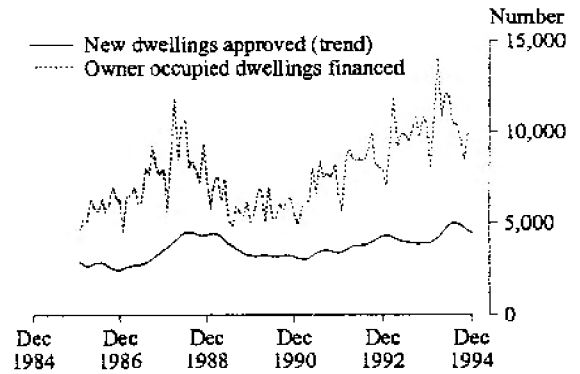
**RETAIL TURNOVER**  
(Trend, monthly)



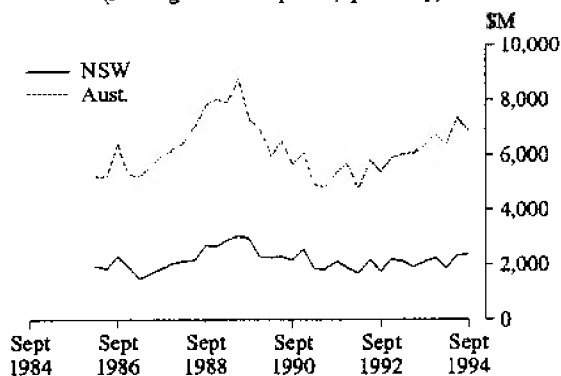
**NEW MOTOR VEHICLES REGISTERED**  
(Monthly)



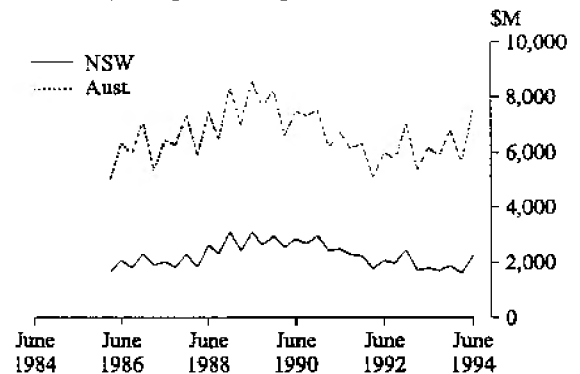
**NEW DWELLINGS AND LOANS APPROVED, NSW**  
(Monthly)



**VALUE OF ALL BUILDINGS COMMENCED**  
(Average 1989-90 prices, quarterly)



**PRIVATE NEW CAPITAL EXPENDITURE**  
(Average 1989-90 prices, quarterly)



## NEW SOUTH WALES IN RELATION TO AUSTRALIA

Indicator	Unit	Latest period	Latest figure	New South Wales		Australia		
				Change from prior period (per cent)	Change from same prior year (per cent)	Latest figure	Change from prior period (per cent)	Change from same prior year (per cent)
<b>Population</b>								
Estimated resident population	'000	June qtr 94	6,051	0.17	0.90	17,843	0.23	1.06
Civilian population aged 15 years and over	'000	Jan. 95	4,772	0.11	1.07	14,037	0.12	1.27
<b>Labour Force</b>								
Employed persons—full-time (original series)	'000	Jan. 95	2,077	-1.5	3.0	6,081	-1.6	2.6
—total (original series)	'000	Jan. 95	2,670	-2.1	4.1	7,953	-2.5	3.6
—total (seasonally adjusted)	'000	Jan. 95	2,725	0.8	4.1	8,090	0.2	3.6
Unemployed persons—(original series)	'000	Jan. 95	274	2.0	-14.3	854	5.7	-12.9
—(seasonally adjusted)	'000	Jan. 95	260	-0.9	-14.2	801	1.4	-12.7
Labour force (seasonally adjusted)	'000	Jan. 95	2,985	0.6	2.2	8,891	0.3	1.9
Participation rate (seasonally adjusted)	per cent	Jan. 95	62.5	0.5	1.2	63.3	0.2	0.7
Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)	per cent	Jan. 95	8.7	-1.5	-16.0	9.0	1.1	-14.3
Job vacancies	'000	Nov. 94	29	3.9	128.2	66	-4.0	72.9
Weekly paid overtime per employee	hours	Nov. 94	1.3	8.7	-5.1	1.4	7.2	46.6
<b>Average Weekly Employee Earnings</b>								
Full-time adult ordinary time earnings (trend estimates)	\$	Aug. 94	644.20	1.5	4.8	623.20	1.1	3.4
All employees total earnings (trend estimates)	\$	Aug. 94	560.90	1.9	3.6	539.90	1.4	3.4
<b>Industrial Disputes</b> —Working days lost								
Consumer Price Index, All Groups 1989-90=100	'000	Oct. 94	10.2	21.6	-0.3	48.9	73.4	-38.5
Retail Turnover (trend estimates)	\$m	Dec. 94	111.8	0.7	2.8	112.8	0.8	2.5
New Motor Vehicle Registrations (seasonally adjusted)	\$m	Dec. 94	3,251	0.1	5.7	9,274	0.2	6.7
Passenger vehicles (seasonally adjusted)	No.	Dec. 94	18,391	0.7	13.6	52,602	1.3	14.1
Other motor vehicles (excl. motor cycles) (seas. adj.)	No.	Dec. 94	15,547	1.3	13.0	43,128	1.2	12.9
			2,844	-2.6	16.9	9,473	1.7	19.8
<b>Production</b>								
Clay bricks (seasonally adjusted) (a)	million	Nov. 94	60	-3.4	3.3	155	-2.0	3.0
Electricity (seasonally adjusted)	mill. kWh	Nov. 94	5,042	2.7	2.4	13,774	0.7	-1.2
Gas (seasonally adjusted) (a)	terajoules	Nov. 94	8,186	-2.5	3.4	53,997	0.1	8.2
<b>Overseas Trade</b>								
Imports	\$m	Dec. 94	5,834	-8.4	5.7	5,834	-9.0	6.5
Exports, Australian produce	\$m	Nov. 94	1,237	-7.9	-12.7	5,303	-4.0	1.3
<b>Tourism</b>								
Overseas visitor short-term arrivals	'000	Nov. 94	131	3.1	12.1	311	3.5	8.7
Resident overseas short-term departures	'000	Nov. 94	74	-0.1	7.6	175	-5.3	2.5
Licensed hotels, motels etc. with facilities—								
Guest nights	'000	Sept. qtr 94	5,379	11.5	8.9	15,811	11.2	7.3
Room occupancy rate	per cent	Sept. qtr 94	57.2	1.2	8.3	58.4	7.9	7.2
<b>Building</b>								
Approvals—								
New dwelling units (seasonally adjusted)	No.	Dec. 94	4,724	21.7	29.9	14,657	-1.7	-6.3
Value of new residential building (seasonally adj.)	\$m	Dec. 94	477	18.6	36.3	1,391	7.2	9.9
Value of non-residential building	\$m	Dec. 94	238	-0.3	15.8	560	-23.4	-27.8
Value of all building	\$m	Dec. 94	730	-7.2	25.7	1,946	-17.2	-7.0
Commencements—								
New dwelling units	No.	Sept. qtr 94	14,643	10.2	20.8	49,140	5.1	6.9
Value of new residential buildings (b)	\$m	Sept. qtr 94	1,442	16.3	26.4	4,371	9.7	16.0
Value of non-residential building (b)	\$m	Sept. qtr 94	684	-16.0	-3.6	1,930	-30.4	-3.7
Value of all building (b)	\$m	Sept. qtr 94	2,395	2.9	13.6	6,879	-6.8	9.0
Value of work done in period (b)	\$m	Sept. qtr 94	2,276	-1.2	0.8	7,006	3.1	8.6
<b>Engineering Construction</b>								
Private contractors—								
Value of work commenced	\$m	Sept. qtr 94	579	39.0	6.0	1,758	1.3	16.5
Value of work done	\$m	Sept. qtr 94	550	-7.9	13.8	1,700	-4.8	0.3
Value of work yet to be done	\$m	Sept. qtr 94	965	2.3	6.8	2,879	2.0	11.7
Value of work done by public sector	\$m	Sept. qtr 94	444	-31.3	7.4	1,249	-29.4	6.9
<b>Finance</b>								
Housing finance for owner occupation—secured commitments to individuals by significant lenders								
Personal finance commitments—significant lenders	\$m	Dec. 94	1,175	-13.5	-15.9	3,596	-10.7	-14.6
Commercial finance commitments—significant lenders	\$m	Dec. 94	924	17.6	19.4	2,452	4.5	11.8
Savings balances at end of month—	\$m	Dec. 94	4,734	13.0	10.9	9,954	11.4	14.9
All banks (c)(d)(Source: Reserve Bank)	\$m	Dec. 94	113,810	1.9	(e)	253,751	1.8	10.7
Building societies	\$m	Dec. 94	3,241	0.9	12.0	11,661	0.7	-2.4
Credit unions	\$m	Dec. 94	5,003	1.1	10.0	11,417	0.6	9.1
<b>Actual New Fixed Capital Expenditure (f)</b>								
New buildings and structures	\$m	June qtr 94	2,444	37.3	25.3	8,225	33.3	24.0
Equipment, plant and machinery	\$m	June qtr 94	503	42.4	25.2	2,135	14.8	15.6
	\$m	June qtr 94	1,942	36.0	25.3	6,090	41.3	27.2

(a) Includes Australian Capital Territory. (b) Average 1989-90 prices. (c) Average of weekly deposit balances.

(d) Savings and trading bank series are combined following changes to the *Banking Act 1959*. (e) Unavailable owing to revisions being done nationally only. (f) By private enterprises.

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